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**J. T. "TOM"
DEVENPORT**

Mr. J.T. "Tom" Devenport, 73 of Austin, passed away suddenly on Wednesday, November 1, 2006 after a head injury.

Mr. Devenport was born August 9, 1933, and was raised in Jacksonville. A 1951 graduate of Jacksonville High School, he lettered three years at Texas A&M University as a Southwest Conference Swimmer before graduating in 1955.

After serving as an Army officer, Mr. Devenport joined the family business. Mr. Devenport was managing a Dallas store of the family's chain of variety stores when he went on a blind date with Virginia Nash, who would become the love of his life.

When the market for variety stores faltered in the early 1970s, Mr. Devenport arranged the sale of the business and became a savings and loan executive. Mr. Devenport ended his career as a respected stock broker with RBC Dain Rauscher.

An active community leader, Mr. Devenport served as president of Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce in 1974, Campaign Chairman of the 1978 Jacksonville United Fund drive, a board member of the Region

VII Education Service Center for 6 years and helped raise more than \$500,000 to build a new home for the Jacksonville Public Library in 1983.

A Senior Active Member and Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International, he served as President of the Jacksonville Rotary Club in 1980 and was a member of the University Rotary Club of Austin. Mr. Devenport was President of the Cherokee County A&M Club in 1969-70.

Mr. Devenport became the youngest Elder in First Christian Church of Jacksonville, served twice as Church Board Chairman and was a lay minister in East Texas for the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ). Mr. Devenport and Virginia sang in the choir of University United Methodist Church, Austin.

When his sons showed an interest in Scouting, Mr. Devenport began what would become 30 years as a Scout leader, serving with Scout units to the regional level of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Devenport was honored with the District Award of Merit in 1974 and the prestigious Silver Beaver Award in 1978, and was course director in 1984 for Wood Badge, the premier training course for Scout leaders.

After retiring to Austin, this political conservative threw himself into his volunteer work as a docent for the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library. Library patrons on his tours were sometimes surprised to find a retired Texas stock broker speaking knowledgeably and passionately about such civil rights movement leaders as Rosa Parks.

Survivors includes his devoted wife Virginia; sister, Dr. Elaine Clary, of Grapevine; three sons John Jr. and wife Amy, of Cedar Park, Robert and wife Trisha, of Chicago,

and James and wife Andrea, of Dallas; five grandsons J.T. Devenport III, of Cedar Park, Nash Devenport and Zachary Devenport, of Chicago, and Henry and Benjamin Devenport, of Dallas; niece Pamela Jordan and husband David and children Hunter and Elizabeth, all of Southlake.

Followed a private internment, a memorial service were held on Saturday, November 4th, at 2:00 p.m. at University United Methodist Church, 2409 Guadalupe, in Austin.

Pallbearers were Dr. Mark Thompson, John White, Harry Tilley, Jim Earle, Ph.D., Joe Angle, Dr. Norwood Hill, Ed Stinnett, and Jerry Barnett.

Memorial contributions may be made to the East Texas Boy Scout Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, 1331 East Fifth Street, Tyler, TX. 75701.

A guestbook online at wcfish.com.

Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home